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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

28 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman and Members, National Intelligence
Steering Group

SUBJECT : National Intelligence Production and Research on
Strategic Programs for 1977

1. Attached for your review is a list of production and research projects on Soviet strategic programs, forces and capabilities proposed for 1977. It was prepared by the NIO for Strategic Programs in consultation with intelligence agency representatives. Also, attached for your reference are lists of national intelligence issuances on strategic programs for 1974, 1975, and 1976.

2. At its next meeting, I request that the Steering Group discuss and approve the research and production projects in the attached list. As part of its deliberations, I request that the Steering Group address the question of scope, format and timing for the production of NIE 11-3/8-77. The 11-3/8-76 representatives and working group chairmen all recommend that the question of Soviet objectives and role of Soviet military strategy and forces in pursuing those objectives be subject to separate treatment in an NIE 11-4 this fall.

3. As to the format of NIE 11-3/8, two principal options have been identified by the representatives and working group chairmen.

a. Full treatment (three full volumes as in 11-3/8-76) but with an effort to make 11-3/8-77 somewhat shorter. This approach is favored by State/INR, Army, and Navy.

b. An expanded self-contained Volume I with selective supporting analysis in a Volume II, which would update discussions of major questions and contain full exposition on a limited number of critical or controversial issues. This approach is favored by NIO/SP, CIA, DIA, and Air Force.

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-2-

4. For your information it was agreed by the representatives and working group chairmen that the method used to produce 11-3/8-77 be altered from that used last year along the following lines:

a. One working group would provide the principal analysis instead of five, with the understanding that other working groups would probably be required for certain key subjects and the annexes.

b. NIO/SP would plan to chair the coordination sessions or provide a chairman.

c. A management team would be employed as before.

5. As to the timing of production, it was agreed by the representatives and working group chairmen that, if option b. in paragraph 3 is adopted and overall Soviet objectives handled in NIE 11-4, a 31 October target date appears feasible. If, however, option a. were adopted, the end of November would be a more feasible target date than 31 October.

6. Finally, I recommend that the Steering Group decision regarding the scope, format and timing of NIE 11-3/8-77 be made ad referendum to subsequent review of the plans by Steering Group members with policy consumers in DoD, JCS, State, and the NSC Staff.



Howard Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

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Attachments:
As stated

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-3-

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Programs for 1977

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Next 10 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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